

CONVENTION

Relative to the AFFAIRS of the

AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS,

Signed at the *Hague*, the 10th of *December*, 1790,

BY

Stuy of Netherlands vol 7

His *Majesty's* Ambassador, and by the Plenipotentiaries of
Their *Imperial* and *Prussian* *Majesties* and of Their
High Mightinesses the *States General* of the *United*
Provinces.

Published by Authority.



L O N D O N:

Printed by EDWARD JOHNSTON, in *Warwick-Lane*.

MDCCXC.





CONVENTION relative to the Affairs of the
Austrian Netherlands. Signed at the *Hague*,
the 10th of *December*, 1790.

IL est notoire, que dans les Conventions, signées à Reichenbach le 27 Juillet, 1790, et ensuite dûment ratifiées, entre Sa Majesté le Roi de Hongrie et de Bohême, actuellement Empereur des Romains, Leurs Majestés le Roi de la Grande Bretagne et le Roi de Prusse, et Leurs Hautes Puissances les Etats Généraux des Provinces Unies, il a été arrêté, que la Tranquillité et le bon Ordre seroient promptement rétablis dans les Provinces Beligiques, et que les Trois Puissances Alliées concourroient au Rétablissement de la Domination de Sa Majesté Apostolique dans ces

IT is manifest, that in the Conventions signed at Reichenbach the 27th of July, 1790, and afterwards duly ratified, between His Majesty the King of Hungary and of Bohemia, now Emperor of the Romans, Their Majesties the King of Great Britain and the King of Prussia, and Their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Provinces, it has been agreed, that Tranquillity and good Order should be speedily re-established in the Belgic Provinces, and that the Three Allied Powers would concur in the Re-establishment of the Sovereignty of His Apostolick Majesty in these Provinces,

(4)

Provinces, moyennant l'Assurance de leur ancienne Constitution, avec une Amnistie plénière, et l'Oubli parfait de ce qui s'est passé pendant les Troubles; le tout sous la Garantie des dites Trois Puissances.

Depuis ce Temps les Ministres des Cours Alliées, assemblés à la Haye, n'ont cessé, d'après les Instructions positives de leurs Souverains, et de Concert avec le Plenipotentiaire Impérial, d'employer tous leurs Efforts, pour porter les *Provinces Beligiques* à une entière Soumission, sous les Conditions stipulées; laquelle Soumission ne s'est effectuée cependant qu'après que les Troupes Impériales ont été employées pour s'en assurer.

Ce salutaire Ouvrage étant achevé, quant à son Succès, conformément aux Vœux des Puissances Médiatrices, il ne restoit, pour l'Affermissement de l'Autorité du légitime Souverain des *Provinces Beligiques*, pour la Sûreté de ces Provinces mêmes, pour l'Interêt commun des Puissances respectives, ainsi que pour resserrer entre elles de plus en plus les Liens de l'Amitié et du bon Voisinage, que d'articuler les Points suivans; dont leurs Ministres, en vertu de leurs Pleinpouvoirs, joints en Copie aux Presentes, sont convenus d'un plein Accord.

Provinces, upon Condition of their ancient Constitution being secured to them, together with a compleat Amnesty, and a perfect Oblivion of all that has happened during the Troubles; the Whole under the Guaranty of the said Three Powers.

Since that Time the Ministers of the Allied Powers, assembled at the Hague, have not ceased, in Conformity to the positive Instructions of their Sovereigns, and in Concert with the Imperial Plenipotentiary, to employ all their Efforts to induce the Belgic Provinces to an entire Submission, upon the Conditions stipulated; which Submission was not, however, effected till after the Imperial Troops were employed to ensure it.

This salutary Work being completed, according to the Wishes of the Mediating Powers, as to its Success, nothing remained, for the Confirmation of the Authority of the lawful Sovereign of the Belgic Provinces, for the Security of those Provinces themselves, for the common Interest of the respective Powers, as well as for the Purpose of cementing more closely the Bonds of Friendship and good Neighbourhood among them, but to reduce to Articles the following Points; upon which Their Ministers, by Virtue of their Full Powers, (Copies whereof are annexed to these Presents) have unanimously agreed.

(5)
Article I.

Sa Majesté Impériale, en recevant de la Manière usitée l'Homage des *Provinces Beligiques*, leur confirmera à toutes et une chacune les Constitutions, Privilèges et Coutumes légitimes, dont la Jouissance leur a été assurée respectivement, par les Actes d'Inauguration, de l'Empereur *Charles VI.* et de l'Impératrice *Marie Thérèse*, de glorieuse Mémoire.

Article II.

Sa Majesté Impériale consent d'ensevelir dans un parfait Oubli tous les Excès et Désordres commis dans le Temps des Troubles, et de les comprendre dans une Amnistie générale, qui sera incessamment publiée. Et quoique la Déclaration, signée à *Frankfort* le 14 Octobre, 1790, ait limité cette Amnistie à ceux qui, avant le 21 Novembre, auroient posé les Armes, et cessé l'Instigation contre l'Autorité légitime, Sa Majesté Impériale veut bien également étendre Sa Clemence à tous et un chacun, en se réservant seulement l'Exception d'un très petit Nombre d'Individus, qui, par leur propre Faute, se sont mis dans la malheureuse Situation de ne pas mériter ce Pardon général.

Article I.

His Imperial Majesty, on receiving in the accustomed Manner the Homage of the Belgic Provinces, will confirm to all and every one of them, the lawful Constitutions, Privileges and Customs, the Enjoyment of which was secured to them respectively, by the Acts of Inauguration of the Emperor Charles VI. and of the Empress Maria Theresa, of glorious Memory.

Article II.

His Imperial Majesty consents to bury in perfect Oblivion all the Excesses and Disorders committed during the Troubles, and to include them in a general Amnesty, which shall be immediately published. And although the Declaration, signed at Frankfort the 14th of October, 1790, has limited the Amnesty to those who, before the 21st of November, should have laid down their Arms, and ceased to instigate Opposition to the lawful Authority, His Imperial Majesty is equally willing to extend His Clemency to all and every one, with the Exception only of a very few Individuals, who, by their own Misconduct, have placed themselves in the unfortunate Situation not to merit this general Pardon.

B

This

Cette Exception regardera aussi les Personnes coupables de Crimes et de Delits, qui n'ont point de Rapport aux Desordres dont l'Insurrection a été accompagnée; bien entendu, qu'en accordant cette Amnistie, Sa Majesté Impériale n'entend pas de reconnoître ni confirmer ce qui peut s'être fait pendant les Troubles, contre les Droits et Hauteurs de Son Pouvoir Souverain.

Article III.

Sa Majesté Impériale ayant déclaré, lors des Conférences de Reichenbach, Sa Disposition d'accorder aux Provinces Belges quelques Concessions ultérieures, qui n'altéreroient pas essentiellement la Constitution, dans le Cas où leur Soumission précéderait l'Emploi de la Force, a consenti néanmoins, sur les Instances des Cours Médiatrices, malgré les Circonstances qui l'ont déterminée à employer ces Mesures extrêmes, d'accorder les mêmes Concessions, auxquelles Elle s'étoit déjà engagée de son propre Mouvement, pour Prix d'une Soumission volontaire, telles qu'elles sont contenues dans une Lettre de Son Plénipotentiaire aux Ministres Médiateurs, datée de la Haye, le 29

This Exception will also extend to all those Persons who have been guilty of Crimes and Offences, which have no Connexion with the Disorders which accompanied the Insurrection: It is, at the same Time, to be understood, that, in granting this Amnesty, His Imperial Majesty does not mean to acknowledge nor to confirm any Thing, which may have been done during the Troubles, against the Rights and Authority of His Sovereign Power.

Article III.

His Imperial Majesty having declared, at the Time of the Conference at Reichenbach, His Disposition to grant to the Belgic Provinces some further Concessions, which would not essentially alter the Constitution, in case their Submission preceded the employing of Force, has nevertheless consented, at the Instances of the Mediating Courts, notwithstanding the Circumstances which determined Him to have Recourse to those Extremities, to grant the same Concessions, to which His Majesty had already engaged Himself of His own Accord, in Consideration of a voluntary Submission, such as they are contained in a Letter from His Minister Plenipotentiary to the Mediating Ministers, dated at the Hague, the 29th of October, 1790, the Con-

Octobre, 1790, et dont le Contenu est exprimé dans les Articles suivants.

1. " Que pour satisfaire l'Opinion sur plusieurs Points de Discipline en Matière Ecclesiastique, auxquels la Législation des Pays-Bas a porté quelques Changemens sous le dernier Règne, dans des Vues dont la Pureté a été méconnuë, Sa Majesté veut bien révoquer toutes les Ordonnances concernant les Séminaires, les Processions et quelques autres Pratiques de Piété, les Confréries, &c., et remettre tous ces Objets sous la Direction immédiate des Evêques, avec tous les Pouvoirs qu'ils exerçoient à la fin du Règne de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice Marie Thérèse, ainsi qu'il a déjà été fait dans la Province de Luxembourg, par un Edit qu'on publieroit dans les autres Provinces, quoique la plupart des Dispositions et Ordonnances à révoquer n'aient rien de contraire aux Sens le plus strict de la Constitution des Provinces respectives.

tents of which are expressed in the following Articles.

1. " That in order to satisfy the Minds of People upon many Points of Discipline in Ecclesiastical Matters, in which the Government of the Netherlands had made some Alterations during the last Reign, with Intentions, the Purity of which was ill understood, His Majesty is pleased to revoke all the Ordinances respecting the Seminaries, the Processions, and some other Religious Rites, the Societies, &c.; and to replace all these Objects under the immediate Direction of the Bishops, with all the Authority they enjoyed at the End of the Reign of Her Majesty the Empress Maria Theresa, as has already been done in the Province of Luxembourg, by an Edit, which will also be published in the other Provinces, although the greatest Part of the Regulations and Ordinances to be revoked are not contrary, in the strictest Sense, to the Constitution of the respective Provinces.

2. " His

2. " Sa Majesté veut bien re-
 " mettre toutes Choses à
 " l'Egard de l'Université de
 " *Louvain*, sur le Pied où
 " elles étoient à la Fin du
 " Regne de Sa Majesté l'Im-
 " pératrice; et nommément
 " la réintégrer dans le Droit
 " de Nomination qu'Elle ex-
 " erçoit sur certains Benefices
 " Ecclesiastiques, en vertu
 " d'un Indult du Saint Siege
 " Apostolique, reservant pro-
 " visionnellement les Benefices
 " de la Province de *Luxem-*
 " *bourg*, jusqu'à ce qu'il puisse
 " être pris à l'amiable des
 " Arrangements à cet Egard:
 " Mais comme il a été re-
 " connu depuis longtems, que
 " le Systême des Etudes de la
 " Philosophie, du Droit et de
 " la Médecine exigeoient une
 " Reforme aux *Pays-Bas*, et
 " que l'un des premiers De-
 " voirs d'un Souverain est de
 " procurer à Ses Sujets la
 " meilleure Instruction pos-
 " sible, Sa Majesté tiendra en
 " Sursis les Ordonnances qui
 " obligent à prendre des De-
 " grés à *Louvain*, et laissera
 " sur ce Liberté entière, jus-
 " qu'à ce qu'un nouveau Sys-
 " tême d'Etudes ait pû être
 " introduit dans la dite Uni-

2. " *His Majesty is pleased to*
 " *replace all Things, in Re-*
 " *spect to the University of*
 " *Louvain, on the Footing they*
 " *were upon at the End of*
 " *the Reign of Her Imperial*
 " *Majesty; and particularly to*
 " *reinstate that University in*
 " *the Right of Nomination,*
 " *which it enjoyed, to certain*
 " *Ecclesiastical Benefices, by vir-*
 " *tue of a Grant from the*
 " *Holy Apostolical See, reser-*
 " *ving provisionally the Bene-*
 " *fices of the Province of*
 " *Luxembourg, till some ami-*
 " *cable Arrangement can be*
 " *formed in that Respect;*
 " *but as it has been for a long*
 " *Time acknowledged that the*
 " *System of the Studies in Phi-*
 " *losophy, Law and Physic re-*
 " *quired Reformation in the Ne-*
 " *therlands, and as one of the*
 " *principal Duties of a Sove-*
 " *reign is to procure to His*
 " *Subjects the best Instruction*
 " *possible, His Majesty will*
 " *hold suspended the Ordinances*
 " *which require the taking of*
 " *Degrees at Louvain, and*
 " *will leave entire Liberty*
 " *thereupon 'till a new System*
 " *of Studies can be introduced*
 " *into the said University, by*
 " *Arrangements which His Ma-*
 " *jesty*

“ versité par des Arrange-
 “ ments, sur lesquels Elle se
 “ concertera avec les Etats.

3. “ Comme il seroit impossible
 “ de rétablir tous les Cou-
 “ vents qui ont été supprimés
 “ sous le dernier Regne, et
 “ que ce Rétablissement pré-
 “ senteroit plus d'un Incon-
 “ venient, soit à l'Egard des
 “ Personnes qui en sont sor-
 “ ties, soit à l'Egard des Biens
 “ qui en formoient la Dota-
 “ tion, Sa Majesté promet de
 “ n'employer ni destiner les
 “ Revenus de ces Biens,
 “ qu'à des Usages les plus
 “ analogues que possible aux
 “ Intentions des Fondateurs,
 “ et cela sur les Propositions
 “ qui Lui seront faites par
 “ les Etats, avec lesquels Elle
 “ s'entendra, ainsi qu'avec les
 “ Municipalités respectifs, sur
 “ tout ce qui concerne l'Ad-
 “ ministration des dits Biens.
 “ Sa Majesté promet de plus,
 “ de rétablir ou de confirmer le
 “ Rétablissement des Abbayes
 “ supprimées, qui avoient
 “ d'Ancienneté le Droit de
 “ deputer leurs Chefs aux
 “ Etats.

“ jesty will concert with the
 “ States.

3. “ As it would be impossible to
 “ re-establish all the Convents
 “ which were suppressed during
 “ the late Reign, and as such a
 “ Re-establishment would be pro-
 “ ductive of several Inconve-
 “ niences, whether in Regard
 “ to the Persons who have
 “ quitted those Convents, or in
 “ Respect to the Estates with
 “ which they were endowed,
 “ His Majesty promises not to
 “ employ or dispose of the Reve-
 “ nues of this Property, but for
 “ Purposes the most analogous
 “ possible to the Intention of the
 “ Founders; and that in con-
 “ sequence of the Proposals which
 “ shall be made to Him by the
 “ States, whom His Majesty
 “ will consult, as well as the
 “ respective Municipalities, in
 “ every Thing relating to the
 “ Administration of the said
 “ Property. His Majesty like-
 “ wise promises to re-establish or
 “ confirm the Re-establishment
 “ of the suppressed Abbies, which
 “ had anciently the Privilege of
 “ deputing their Chiefs to the
 “ Assembly of the States.

4. “ Sa Majesté, se reposant sur
 “ le Patriotisme et la Valeur,
 “ qui de tous Temps ont fait
 “ voler la Nation à la Gloire
 “ et à la Défense de la Patrie,
 “ veut bien prendre l’Engage-
 “ ment le plus positif, que
 “ jamais, et en aucun Temps,
 “ il ne fera Question de Con-
 “ scription Militaire, ni di-
 “ rectement ni indirectement.
 “ Elle promet aussi de ne ja-
 “ mais lever de Milices ou
 “ Recrues forcées, autrement
 “ que du Consentement des
 “ États au Cas qu’il s’en agisse.

5. “ Mettant également Sa Con-
 “ fiance dans l’Amour de la
 “ Nation, et dans Ses géné-
 “ reux Efforts pour le Sou-
 “ tien de la Monarchie ; et
 “ se flattant, qu’après les pré-
 “ sents Troubles, Elle et Ses
 “ Successeurs en éprouveront
 “ les mêmes Marques que les
 “ Princes Ses Prédecesseurs,
 “ et spécialement feuë Sa Ma-
 “ jesté l’Impératrice Marie
 “ Thérèse, en ont éprouvé en
 “ Cent Occasions, Sa Majesté
 “ s’engage à ne jamais lever
 “ aucun Impôt sur le Peuple,
 “ à quelque Titre que ce
 “ puisse être, sans l’Aveu et
 “ le Consentement des États.

4. “ *His Majesty, relying upon the*
 “ *Patriotism and Valour of the*
 “ *Nation, which have in all*
 “ *Times incited them to Glory,*
 “ *and the Defence of the Country,*
 “ *is pleased to engage, in the most*
 “ *positive Manner, that there*
 “ *shall not ever, or upon any*
 “ *Occasion, be any Military*
 “ *Enrolment, either directly or*
 “ *indirectly. His Majesty pro-*
 “ *mises likewise never to raise*
 “ *the Militia or Recruits by*
 “ *Compulsion, otherwise than*
 “ *with the Consent of the States,*
 “ *in Case of Necessity.*

5. “ *Placing likewise His Confi-*
 “ *dence in the Affection of the*
 “ *Nation, and in their generous*
 “ *Efforts for the Support of*
 “ *the Monarchy ; and flattering*
 “ *Himself that, after the present*
 “ *Troubles, His Majesty and His*
 “ *Successors will receive the*
 “ *same Marks of it as the Princes*
 “ *His Predecessors, and in par-*
 “ *ticular the late Empress Ma-*
 “ *ria Theresa, experienced upon*
 “ *many Occasions, His Majesty*
 “ *engages never to levy any Tax*
 “ *upon the People, under any*
 “ *Title whatever, without the*
 “ *Approbation and Consent of*
 “ *the States.*

6. “ *His*

6. " Sa Majesté declarera in-
 " movable tous les Emplois
 " de Juges des Conseils Su-
 " périeurs de Justice, et con-
 " firmera irrévocablement ce
 " que les Constitutions re-
 " spectives, et la Jurispru-
 " dence de chaque Province,
 " ont établi sur ce Point.

7. " Quoique le Diplôme accor-
 " dé par l'Empereur Charles
 " VI. aux Tribunaux Supé-
 " rieurs, pour la Presentation
 " d'un Terne, en cas de Va-
 " cance de quelqu'une des
 " Places dans les dits Corps
 " respectifs, ne fasse aucune-
 " ment Partie de la Constitu-
 " tion, et ait été jusqu'ici re-
 " vocable à Volonté, Sa Ma-
 " jesté, déferant aux Voeux
 " exprimés ci-devant par les
 " Etats et par les Tribunaux,
 " veut bien remettre irrévo-
 " cablement ce Diplôme en
 " Vigueur, et en faire un
 " Point Constitutionnel.

8. " Quoique dans les Consti-
 " tutions et Privilèges de la
 " plupart des Provinces, il ne
 " soit rien exprimé touchant
 " la Faculté consultative des
 " Etats et Tribunaux sur les

6. " *His Majesty will likewise*
 " *declare irremovable the Em-*
 " *ployments of the Judges of the*
 " *Superior Councils of Justice,*
 " *and will confirm irrevocably*
 " *whatever the respective Con-*
 " *stitutions, and the Jurispru-*
 " *dence of each Province, have*
 " *established upon that Subject.*

7. " *Although the Diploma granted*
 " *by the Emperor Charles VI.*
 " *to the Superior Tribunals,*
 " *for the Presentation of a*
 " *Tern, in Case of a Vacancy in*
 " *any of the Employments in the*
 " *said respective Bodies, does*
 " *not in any Shape form Part*
 " *of the Constitution, and has*
 " *been hitherto revocable at*
 " *Pleasure, His Majesty, in*
 " *compliance with the Wishes*
 " *formerly expressed by the*
 " *States and the Tribunals, is*
 " *pleased to declare the Privi-*
 " *leges of that Diploma irre-*
 " *vocably in Force, and to*
 " *make it an Article of the*
 " *Constitution.*

8. " *Although, in the Constitu-*
 " *tions and Privileges of the*
 " *greatest Part of the Pro-*
 " *vinces, nothing is expressed in*
 " *regard to the deliberative*
 " *Capacity of the States and*
 " *Tribunals*

“ Loix à publier, Sa Majesté
 “ se propose d’entendre et
 “ consulter les Etats et les
 “ Tribunaux respectifs, toutes
 “ les Fois qu’il s’agira de
 “ quelque Loi nouvelle et
 “ générale : Et Sa Majesté se
 “ propose même d’entendre
 “ aussi les Etats sur les Change-
 “ mens essentiels qui pour-
 “ roient être faits aux Tarifs
 “ subsistants pour les Dou-
 “ anes.

9. “ Sa Majesté s’entendra en-
 “ core avec les Etats sur les
 “ Moyens de faire passer, par
 “ les Voies ordinaires de la
 “ Législation, les Ordon-
 “ nances pénales en matière
 “ de Douanes, et d’en attri-
 “ buer la Connoissance à une
 “ Délégation du Tribunal Su-
 “ périeur dans chaque Pro-
 “ vince.

10. “ Comme il est essentiel
 “ qu’on ait Confiance dans les
 “ Formes du Gouvernement,
 “ Sa Majesté rétablira l’Or-
 “ ganisation du Gouverne-
 “ ment, et de la Chambre des
 “ Comptes, sur le Pied qui
 “ subsistoit sous le Regne de
 “ feuë l’Impératrice Reine,
 “ nommément en ce qui con-

“ *Tribunals upon the Laws to*
 “ *be made, His Majesty pro-*
 “ *poses to hear and consult with*
 “ *the States and the respective*
 “ *Tribunals as often as any new*
 “ *and general Law shall be in*
 “ *Agitation : And His Ma-*
 “ *jesty proposes also to grant the*
 “ *States a Hearing upon any*
 “ *essential Changes which may*
 “ *be made in the subsisting Ta-*
 “ *rifs for the Customs.*

9. “ *His Majesty will farther*
 “ *consult with the States upon*
 “ *the Means of passing, in the*
 “ *ordinary Course of Legisla-*
 “ *tion, the penal Ordinances in*
 “ *respect to the Customs, and*
 “ *of referring the Cognizance*
 “ *thereof to a Delegation of*
 “ *the Superior Tribunal in every*
 “ *Province.*

10. “ *As it is essential that Con-*
 “ *fidence should be placed in the*
 “ *Forms of Government, His*
 “ *Majesty will re-establish the*
 “ *Organization of the Govern-*
 “ *ment, and the Chamber of Ac-*
 “ *counts, upon the Footing which*
 “ *subsisted in the Reign of the late*
 “ *Empress Queen, particularly*
 “ *in what regards the Privy*
 “ *Councils*

“ cerne les Conseils d'Etat-
 “ Privé, et des Finances ; Se
 “ reservant néanmoins le Droit
 “ incontestable d'y faire les
 “ Changemens que les Cir-
 “ constances pourroient ren-
 “ dre nécessaires, en quoi
 “ Elle s'appliquera toujours
 “ à consulter le Voeu Public,
 “ sans jamais s'écarter du
 “ Rapport qu'il peut y avoir
 “ entre l'Organisation du Gou-
 “ vernement, et la Consti-
 “ tution.

11. “ Le Commandant Géné-
 “ ral des Troupes et le Mi-
 “ nistre Plenipotentiaire se-
 “ ront remis respectivement
 “ sous les Ordres et la De-
 “ pendance des Gouverneurs
 “ Généraux. Les Gouver-
 “ neurs Militaires en *Brabant*
 “ prêteront le Serment accou-
 “ tumé entre les Mains des
 “ Gouverneurs Généraux ; et
 “ Sa Majesté espérant, que,
 “ lorsque les Troubles actuels
 “ seront apaisés, il n'existera
 “ plus aucun Prétexte qui
 “ puisse en faire renaitre de
 “ nouveaux, (seul et unique
 “ Cas où l'Emploi des Forces
 “ Militaires envers et contre
 “ Tous devient indispensable
 “ pour le Maintien de l'Ordre

“ *Councils of State and of the*
 “ *Finances ; reserving never-*
 “ *theless the incontestible Right*
 “ *to make any Changes that*
 “ *Circumstances may render ne-*
 “ *cessary ; in which His Ma-*
 “ *jesty will always make it His*
 “ *Object to consult the Wishes*
 “ *of the Public, without ever*
 “ *deviating from the Relation*
 “ *which may exist between the*
 “ *Organization of the Govern-*
 “ *ment, and the Constitution.*

11. “ *The Commander in Chief of the*
 “ *Troops and the Minister Ple-*
 “ *nipotentiary shall be replaced*
 “ *respectively under the Orders*
 “ *of, and made dependant upon,*
 “ *the Governors General. The*
 “ *Military Governors in Bra-*
 “ *bant shall take the accustomed*
 “ *Oaths before the Governors*
 “ *General ; and His Majesty*
 “ *hoping, that, after the pre-*
 “ *sent Troubles have subsided,*
 “ *there will no longer exist any*
 “ *Pretext for renewing them,*
 “ *(the only Case wherein the*
 “ *Employment of a Military*
 “ *Force against All becomes in-*
 “ *dispensable for the Mainte-*
 “ *nance of Public Order, and*
 “ *the Execution of the Laws)*
 “ *His Majesty is pleased to esta-*
 D “ *blish*

“ public et l'Execution des
 “ Loix) Elle veut bien établir,
 “ comme Regle immuable,
 “ que du Moment où tout
 “ sera rentré dans un Ordre
 “ et un Calme parfait, le Mi-
 “ litaire ne sera jamais em-
 “ ployé contre les Citoyens,
 “ que pour soutenir les Dé-
 “ crêts du Juge, et à la Re-
 “ quisition des Tribunaux et
 “ des Magistrats.

12. “ L'Administration de la
 “ Justice civile et criminelle
 “ étant un des Objets qui in-
 “ téressent le plus essentielle-
 “ ment le Droit sacré des
 “ Peuples à la Liberté et à la
 “ Propriété légales; et Sa
 “ Majesté se proposant d'é-
 “ tablir plus que jamais, entre
 “ Elle et les Représentans du
 “ Peuple, un Concert parfait
 “ sur tout ce qui pourra ten-
 “ dre à la Prospérité et à la
 “ Sureté Publiques, Elle pro-
 “ met d'entendre les Etats
 “ sur les Changemens ou
 “ Reformes qu'il pourroit y
 “ avoir à faire, relativement
 “ aux Regles et Formes éta-
 “ blies pour l'Administration
 “ de la Justice; et Elle s'en-
 “ gage à ne rien alterer à
 “ l'Ordre des Jurisdictions,

“ *list, as an invariable Rule,*
 “ *that, from the Moment when*
 “ *good Order and a perfect*
 “ *Calm shall be restored, the*
 “ *Military shall never be em-*
 “ *ployed against the Citizens,*
 “ *unless in Support of the De-*
 “ *crees of the Judge, and upon*
 “ *the Requisition of the Tribu-*
 “ *nals and the Magistrates.*

12. “ *The Administration of Jus-*
 “ *tice, both Civil and Crimi-*
 “ *nal, being one of the Objects*
 “ *which most essentially interests*
 “ *the sacred Right of the People*
 “ *to lawful Liberty and Pro-*
 “ *perty; and His Majesty pro-*
 “ *posing to establish, more than*
 “ *ever, a perfect Concert be-*
 “ *tween Himself and the Re-*
 “ *presentatives of the People,*
 “ *in every Thing which can tend*
 “ *to the Public Prosperity and*
 “ *Safety, He promises to grant*
 “ *the States a Hearing upon the*
 “ *Changes and Reforms which*
 “ *may be necessary, relative to*
 “ *the Rules and Forms, esta-*
 “ *blished for the Administration*
 “ *of Justice; and engages not*
 “ *to make any Alteration in the*
 “ *different Jurisdictions, but in*
 “ *Concert with the States, and*
 “ *having*

“ sans Concert avec les Etats,
“ et sans leur Aven préalable.

13. “ Comme il est impossible
“ de déterminer toujours un
“ Sens tellement clair à la
“ Lettre des Stipulations
“ Constitutionnelles, que par
“ la Suite des Temps et des
“ Circonstances, il ne se pré-
“ sente jamais de Cas dou-
“ teux, sujets à des Interpré-
“ tations difficiles, et que
“ jusqu'ici il n'a pas été assez
“ prévu ni réglé, quelle dev-
“ roit être en pareil Cas la
“ Voie décisive à l'amiable;
“ pour prévenir toute Aigreur
“ entre le Prince et Ses Peu-
“ ples, Sa Majesté promet,
“ que dans tous les Cas où il
“ y auroit des Doutes ou des
“ Difficultés sur l'Esprit ou
“ le Sens de quelque Article
“ de Constitution de l'une ou
“ de l'autre Province, il sera
“ nommé des Commissaires
“ par Sa Majesté, et que les
“ Etats de la Province, que
“ la Difference concernera,
“ en nommeront de leur Côté,
“ pour s'expliquer et s'en-
“ tendre ensemble, s'il est
“ possible; qu'il sera rendu
“ Compte à Sa Majesté Elle
“ même du Resultat de ces

“ having had their previous
“ Consent.

13. “ *As it is impossible to fix al-*
“ *ways so clear a Sense to the*
“ *Letter of the Constitutional*
“ *Stipulations, but that, in the*
“ *Course of Time, and from*
“ *Circumstances, doubtful Cases*
“ *may sometimes arise, which*
“ *may be liable to difficult Inter-*
“ *pretations, the Rule for de-*
“ *ciding upon which, in an ami-*
“ *cable Manner, has not hitherto*
“ *been sufficiently foreseen or*
“ *prescribed: For preventing*
“ *any Animosity between the*
“ *Prince and People, His Ma-*
“ *jesty promises, that in all*
“ *Cases where any Doubts or*
“ *Difficulties shall arise, respect-*
“ *ing the Spirit or the Sense of*
“ *any Article of the Constitu-*
“ *tion of any of the Provinces,*
“ *Commissaries shall be appointed*
“ *by His Majesty, and that the*
“ *States of the Province, con-*
“ *cerned in such Difference,*
“ *shall appoint others on their*
“ *Side, in order to come to an*
“ *Explanation and good Under-*
“ *standing together, if possible;*
“ *that an Account shall be given*
“ *to His Majesty himself of the*
“ *Result of these Conferences;*
“ *and that in case the Dif-*
“ *ference*

“ Conferences; et que dans
 “ le Cas où la Difference ne
 “ pourra pas être applanie
 “ par la Voie des Commis-
 “ saires, Sa Majesté d’un Côté,
 “ et les Etats de l’autre, nom-
 “ meront en Nombre égal
 “ quelques Personnes impar-
 “ tiales, dispensées en Forme
 “ à cet Effet de tout Serment
 “ oblatif; et que Sa Majesté,
 “ ainsi que les Etats, s’en re-
 “ mettront à la Decision de
 “ ces Arbitres,”

Article IV.

Leurs Majestés, le Roi de la
Grande Bretagne et le Roi de *Prusse*,
 et Leurs Hautes Puissances les Etats
 Généraux des *Provinces Unies*, ga-
 rantiront, de la Manière la plus so-
 lemnelle, à Sa Majesté Imperiale et
 Ses Augustes Héritiers et Succes-
 seurs, la Souveraineté des *Provinces*
Belgiques, maintenant réunies sous
 Sa Domination, pour ne composer
 qu’un seul, indivisible, inalienable
 et incommutable Domaine, qui
 sera inséparable des Etats de la
 Maison d’*Autriche* en *Allemagne*, et
 gouverné selon les Constitutions,
 Privilèges et Coutumes legitimes,
 exprimés dans les Articles I. et
 III. ci-dessus; comme les Puissances
 susmentionnées garantiront également

“ ference cannot be adjusted by
 “ Means of the Commissaries, His
 “ Majesty on His Side, and the
 “ States on theirs, shall name an
 “ equal Number of impartial
 “ Persons, who shall have a formal
 “ Dispensation for this Purpose
 “ from all obstructive Oaths;
 “ and that His Majesty, as
 “ well as the States, shall abide
 “ by the Decision of these Ar-
 “ bitrators.”

Article IV.

Their Majesties, the King of Great
Britain and the King of Prussia, and
Their High Mightinesses the States
General of the United Provinces,
shall guaranty, in the most solemn
Manner, to His Imperial Majesty and
His August Heirs and Successors, the
Sovereignty of the Belgic Provinces,
now reunited under His Government,
to compose but one, indivisible, ina-
lienable and unchangeable Dominion,
which shall be inseparable from the
Territories of the House of Austria in
Germany, and governed according to
the lawful Constitutions, Privileges
and Customs specified in the First and
Third Articles above inserted; as the
above-mentioned Powers will guaranty
likewise the Preservation and full En-
joyment

la Conservation et pleine Jouissance
des Constitutions, Privilèges et
Coutumes légitimes, exprimés dans
ces mêmes Articles.

*joyment of the lawful Constitutions,
Privileges and Customs, specified in the
said Articles.*

Article V.

Les Ratifications de la présente
Convention, expédiées en bonne et
duë Forme, seront échangées entre
les Hautes Parties Contractantes
dans l'Espace de Deux Mois, ou
plutôt si faire se peut, à compter
du Jour de la Signature.

En Foi de quoi, nous souffignés
Ministres Plenipotentiaires avons
signé la présente Convention, et y
avons apposé les Cachets de nos
Armes.

Fait à la Haye, le Dix Decembre,
Mille Sept Cent Quatre-vingt-
dix.

Le Comte
de Mercy Argenteau,
sub spe rati.
(L. S.)

Auckland.
(L. S.)

Le C^{te} de Keller.
(L. S.)

Van de Spiegel.
(L. S.)

Article V.

*The Ratification of the present
Convention, executed in good and due
Form, shall be exchanged between the
High Contracting Parties in the Space
of Two Months, or sooner if it can
be done, to be computed from the
Day of the Signature.*

*In Witness whereof, we the un-
derwritten Ministers Plenipoten-
tiary have signed the present Conven-
tion, and have thereto set the Seals
of our Arms.*

*Done at the Hague, the 10th of De-
cember, 1790.*

E

THE

LES Ministres Plenipotentiaires
sont convenus d'annexer au
present Acte la Lettre citée à l'Ar-
ticle III. et dont, pour la plus grande
Clarté, on n'a inséré dans le dit
Article, que les Points de Conces-
sion.

Fait et signé à la *Haye*, le Dix De-
cembre, Mille Sept Cent Quatre-
vingt-dix.

Le Comte
de Mercy Argenteau. *Auckland.*

*Copie de la Lettre, adressée par le
Plénipotentiaire Imperial, aux
Ministres des Puissances Alliés
à la Haye, le 29 Octobre,
1790.*

MESSIEURS,

“ **L**orsque l'Empereur a fait de-
“ mander dans les Conférences
“ de *Reichenbach* aux Puissances
“ Maritimes, et à la Cour de *Ber-*
“ *lin*, leur Garantie de Sa Souverai-
“ neté héréditaire sur les Pays-
“ *Bas Autrichiens*, Sa Majesté s'est
“ engagée à rétablir et maintenir,
“ dans tous les Cas, la Constitution

THE Ministers Plenipotentiary
have agreed to annex to the pre-
sent Act the Letter mentioned in the
Third Article, from which, for
greater Perspicuity, only the Points
of Concession have been inserted in the
said Article.

Done at the Hague, the 10th of De-
cember, 1790.

Le C^{te} de Keller. *Van de Spiegel.*

Copy of the Letter addressed by
the Imperial Plenipotentiary
to the Ministers of the Allied
Powers at the *Hague*, Octo-
ber 29, 1790.

GENTLEMEN,

“ **W**HEN the Emperor, in the
“ Conferences at *Reichen-*
“ *bach*, made a Requisition to the
“ Maritime Powers, and the Court
“ of *Berlin*, of their Guaranty of
“ the Hereditary Sovereignty of the
“ Austrian Netherlands, His Ma-
“ jesty engaged to re-establish and
“ support, in all Events, the Con-
stitution

“ de ces Provinces, et Elle a con-
“ senti à ce que les Puissances
“ garantes laissent entrevoir
“ aux Etats des dites Provinces,
“ quelques Concessions analogues
“ à la Constitution, pour Prix
“ d’une Soumission volontaire, au
“ cas que cette Soumission préce-
“ dât l’Emploi de la Force ex-
“ trême, auquel le Cœur de Sa
“ Majesté repugnoit et repugne en-
“ core. Elle a prouvé depuis long
“ Tems, par la Sageffe et la
“ Douceur de Son Gouverne-
“ ment en *Toscane*, que le Bonheur
“ des Peuples fait l’Objet unique
“ de tous Ses Soins: Sa Majesté
“ a bien manifesté les mêmes
“ Sentimens depuis qu’Elle est
“ montée sur le Trône de la Mo-
“ narchie *Autrichienne*; et ce que
“ les *Provinces Beligiques* auroient de
“ mieux à faire, pour captiver en-
“ tièrement le Cœur de Sa Majesté,
“ seroit certes de rentrer volontaire-
“ ment, et de bonne Grace, sous Sa
“ Domination, et de s’en rapporter
“ à Elle sur tout ce qui peut inté-
“ resser essentiellement le Bonheur
“ de la Généralité. Reconciliée
“ avec ces Provinces, Elle mettra
“ en Oubli le Souvenir du passé,
“ et ne s’occupera plus que de la
“ Felicité publique, comme le fe-
“ roit un bon Pere recevant dans
“ ses Bras des Enfants qui vien-

“ *stitution of those Provinces, and*
“ *consented that the guarantying*
“ *Powers should hold out to the*
“ *States of the said Provinces some*
“ *Concessions analagous to the Consti-*
“ *tution, as a Consideration for a vo-*
“ *luntary Submission, in case such Sub-*
“ *mission should precede the Extremity*
“ *of employing Force, at which His*
“ *Majesty’s Heart revolted and still*
“ *revolts. His Majesty has given*
“ *Proofs, for a long Time past, by the*
“ *Wisdom and Mildness of His Go-*
“ *vernment in Tuscany, that the*
“ *Happiness of His People is the sole*
“ *Object of all His Cares. His Majesty*
“ *has manifested the same Sentiments*
“ *since His Accession to the Throne*
“ *of the Austrian Monarchy; and*
“ *the best Way for the Belgic States*
“ *to captivate entirely the Heart of*
“ *His Majesty would certainly be to*
“ *return voluntarily, and with a*
“ *good Grace, under His Govern-*
“ *ment, and to leave to His Majesty*
“ *every Thing which might interest*
“ *essentially the general Happiness.*
“ *Reconciled with these Provinces,*
“ *He will bury in Oblivion all past*
“ *Transactions, and will employ Him-*
“ *self only for the Public Happiness,*
“ *as a good Father would do, in re-*
“ *ceiving in his Arms his Children*
“ *who came to him with Confidence:*
“ *However, as it is but too appa-*
“ *rent that this Confidence, so ne-*
“ *cessary*

“ droient s’y jeter avec Confiance :
 “ Mais comme il ne paroît que
 “ trop, que cette Confiance, si
 “ nécessaire au Bonheur mutuel
 “ du Prince et de la Nation, n’ex-
 “ iste pas encore, et que, pour en
 “ hâter le Retour, il convient que
 “ les Puissances garantes puissent
 “ faire connoître aux Etats la Na-
 “ ture et le Prix des Concessions
 “ auxquelles la Complaisance de
 “ Sa Majesté la porteroit, dans le
 “ Cas d’une Soumission prompte
 “ et volontaire, afin de prévenir
 “ l’Effusion du Sang, qui n’a déjà
 “ que trop coulé pendant ces mal-
 “ heureux Troubles, et afin de faire
 “ cesser le plutôt possible les Des-
 “ ordres de toute Espèce, qui en
 “ sont le funeste Résultat, je suis
 “ autorisé à faire connoître à vos
 “ Excellences—

[*Suivent les Points de Concessions
 qui se trouvent inserés Mot à
 Mot dans l’Article III. de la
 Convention.*]

“ Tant de Moyens adoptés par
 “ l’Empereur pour satisfaire les
 “ Provinces Beligiques, et donner
 “ en même Tems de nouvelles
 “ Preuves des Egards que Sa Ma-
 “ jesté se plaît à marquer à l’In-
 “ tervention des Puissances Alliées,
 “ porteront sans Doute vos Excel-

“ cessary to the mutual Happiness of
 “ the Prince and the Nation, does
 “ not yet exist, and as, in order to
 “ hasten it’s Return, it is proper
 “ that the Guarantying Powers should
 “ be enabled to make known to the
 “ States the Nature and the Value
 “ of the Concessions, to which the
 “ Complacency of His Majesty would
 “ incline Him, in case of a speedy
 “ and voluntary Submission, in order
 “ to prevent the Effusion of Blood,
 “ of which too much has already been
 “ shed during those unhappy Trou-
 “ bles, and to put an End as soon as
 “ possible to the Disturbances of every
 “ Kind, which are the fatal Conse-
 “ quence, I am authorized to acquaint
 “ your Excellencies—

[Then follow the Points of
 Concession, inserted Word
 for Word in the Third Ar-
 ticle of the Convention.]

“ So many Means adopted by the
 “ Emperor to satisfy the Belgic Pro-
 “ vinces, and to give, at the same
 “ Time, fresh Proofs of the Regard
 “ which His Majesty has a Pleasure
 “ in manifesting for the Intervention
 “ of the Allied Powers, will un-
 “ doubtedly induce your Excellencies to
 “ accelerate



“ lences à accélérer, le plutôt que
“ possible, une prompte Fin à l’Ob-
“ jet que nous occupe; et dans
“ cet Espoir, je les prie d’agréer
“ les Assurances de la haute Con-
“ fideration avec laquelle j’ai l’Hon-
“ neur d’être,”

Messieurs,

De vos Excellences

Le très humble et très
obeïssant Serviteur,

(Signé) *Mercy Argenteau.*

A la Haye, le
29 Octobre,
1790.

“ accelerate, as much as possible, a
“ speedy Conclusion to the Object
“ which now engages us; and in
“ that Hope I beg you will accept
“ the Assurances of the high Respect
“ with which I have the Honour to
“ be,

Gentlemen,

Your Excellencies

Most humble and most
obedient Servant,

(Signed) *Mercy Argenteau.*

At the Hague, the
29th of October,
1790.





